

INVENTORY OF SEEDS AND PLANTS IMPORTED BY THE  
OFFICE OF FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION  
DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1 TO SEPTEMBER 30,  
1917 (NO. 52; NOS. 44935 TO 45220).

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This small inventory covers a period of the World War during which every energy which could be utilized was directed to the most active war work and the shipping of seeds and plants was nearest at a standstill.

A few of the introductions, however, merit mention in this introductory statement.

The success of such introduced forage grasses as Rhodes grass and Sudan grass in the South and Southwest makes the introduction of four forage grasses from New South Wales (Nos. 45037 to 45040) and a promising collection from the Belgian Kongo (Nos. 45204 to 45214) of particular interest to those who are pioneering in the livestock industry in these warm regions.

Mr. Wilson Popenoe sent in from Guatemala seeds of an undescribed species of *Persea* (No. 44996), which, although having leaves very much like those of the avocado, has fruits with a fleshy, persistent calyx. The hybridizing which is going on between different races of *Persea americana* may make this species of value for hybridization purposes. Mr. Popenoe's large-fruited form of the coyó (No. 45081), which weighed 2 pounds and was of good quality, deserves to be called to the attention of tropical horticulturists and a comparison made on a considerable scale between it and the West Indian forms of avocado.

Just how different specifically the *Carica dodecaphylla* (No. 45141) of Argentina is from the ordinary *C. papaya* remains to be seen when they are grown side by side in Florida, but as already crosses between *C. candamarcensis* and *C. papaya* are being attempted it is important to bring into the hands of the plant breeders all the species and varieties obtainable.

Those interested in tropical species of *Rubus* may find in *Rubus racemosus* (No. 45044) from the Nilgiri Hills of India a useful form. The delicious rambutan of Java (*Nephelium lappaceum*) and the litchi of South China appear to have a rival in *N. bassacense* (No. 45131) from Cochin China, a species whose fruits have longer spines even than the beautiful rambutan.